

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. 003493.00291 (ATT 2001-0305)

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated or made obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-2, 5, 9-12, 14, 16-19, 21-23 AND 25-28 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5, 9-12, 14, 16-19, 21-23 and 25-28 as being anticipated by McConnell et al. (US patent 6,373,930).

Responsive to the Examiner, Applicants have canceled claims 14-15 and 17-28 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the rights to prosecute one or more of these canceled claims in one or more continuation applications.

Responsive to the Examiner, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claims 14 and 15 into amended independent claim 1. The Examiner indicated that claim 15 is objected for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. As such, Applicants have canceled claims 14 and 15 and amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claims 14 and 15. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is now in allowable form. Furthermore, dependent 2-13, and 16 depend from amended independent claim 1 and recite additional limitations. For the same reason, it is submitted that dependent 2-13, and 16 are also in allowable form. It is respectfully requested that the present rejection be withdrawn.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3-4 AND 6-7 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 3-4 and 6-7 as being unpatentable in view of McConnell et al. (US patent 6,373,930) in view of Resnick et al. (US Pub. No. 20010001321).

Responsive to the Examiner, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claims 14 and 15 into amended independent claim 1. The Examiner indicated that claim 15 is objected for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. As such, Applicants have canceled claims 14 and 15 and amended independent claim 1 to

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incorporate the limitations of claims 14 and 15. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is now in allowable form. Furthermore, dependent 3-4 and 6-7 depend from amended independent claim 1 and recite additional limitations. For the same reason, it is submitted that dependent 3-4 and 6-7 are also in allowable form. It is respectfully requested that the present rejection be withdrawn.

III. OBJECTED CLAIM 15

Applicants have canceled claims 14 and 15 and amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claims 14 and 15. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is now in allowable form.

Conclusion


Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirement of 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patterson & Sheridan, LLP
595 Shrewsbury Avenue
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702


Kin-Wah Tong, Attorney
Reg. No. 39,400
(732) 530-9404